

The SINNER'S Thundering WARNING-PIECE, BEING

AN ACCOUNT of the great Damage done by the late Dreadful Thunder and Lightning, on the 16th of July last, both in City and Country; particularly at *Tatnum-Court, Hylington*, and several other places in and about the City of *London*, by beating down Chimnies, part of Houses, striking some dead, and others Speechless, in a sad and deplorable manner.

AS ALSO
How one *Mr. Woollar* of *Ipswich* in *Suffolk*, and Six of his Passengers was struck dead in his Wherry the same Day, by the Lightning, and many others dangerously scorched and burnt.

The Truth of which will be Attested any Day of the Week, by *Ipswich* Boys at *Bear-Key*, near *Billinggate*, or at the *Pewter-Platter*, in *Bullingbrook's-Rent*, near *Spittle-yard*.

To which is added,

A SERMON

Preached at *Mr. Woollar's* Funeral on the said Occasion, at *St. Margaret's Church* in *Ipswich*, by *Mr. William Eley*, Minister of the said Parish, his Text being *Psal. 77. 17. 18. The Clouds poured out Water, and the Skies sent out a Sound, thine Arrows went abroad; The Voice of thy Thunder was in the Heavens. The Lightning lightened the World. The Earth trembled and shook.*

Licensed according to Order.

L O N D O N:

Printed by *H. Hills*, in *Black-Market*, near the *Water-side*.

The Sinner's Thundering Warning-Piece.

THE late terrible and amazing Claps of Thunder, and dismal Flashes of Lightning, that happen'd on *Friday* the 16th Instant, having done incredible Damage to the Lives, Bodies, Goods, and Houses of several Persons, not only in the City of *London*, but in several parts of *England*; so that having the following Particulars thereof (well attested) brought to my Hand, I have thought fit to Communicate the same to the Publick, in order to awaken a careless and drowsie Generation, out of their sensual Lethargy; into a sincere and hearty Repentance, in order to escape the threatening Judgments of an angry and justly provoked Deity. But to proceed.

On the Day above-mention'd, about 4 a Clock in the Afternoon, the Wind then being S. W. from which Quarter a black and thick Cloud arose, then spread it self all over the Firmament, and at last produced a very hasty Storm of Rain, even to excess; being attended with such dreadful Claps of Thunder, and Flashes of Lightning, as seldom were seen or heard in the memory of any Man living: At which time the House of an eminent *French* Merchant, near the *Three Colours* in *Islington*, was much Damified by a Flash of Lightning, and Clap of Thunder; beting down the Chimney, melting the Leads of the Window, and Pewter-Dishes on the Shelves. A Gentlewoman being then in the House, and her Fore-Finger quite struck off with a Thunder-Bolt, without any other Damage to the rest of her Body. Another in the said House, had at the same time her Face blasted, and both remained Speechless and Senseless for some time; while the rest of the Family smelt a noisome Smell, like that of Brimstone or Gunpowder. [The Truth of this is easily confirm'd, by any that will take the pains to go thither; where (for their further Satisfaction) they will find the Window struck of a Blue and Fiery Colour.]

The same day, and almost the same Minute, the said Lightning and Thunder did great and amazing Damage in the house of Mr. *Burgess*, at the *Tile Kilns* near *Tatnurn-Court*; for a Servant standing at the Door, was driven by the violence of the Lightning backwards into the House above Three Yards, thrown down, and lay as dead for some time as was a Dog, that stood by him. During this, the Pewter-Dishes were most of them melted as they stood on the Shelves, just as if they had been put into a violent Fire; besides other great Damage done in that, and several other Houses thereabouts. In *Essex* a Barn was burnt down to the Ground, and most of the Corn spoil'd in a Field near *Waltham Abbey*.

The same Day a Carrier on the Road to *Uxbridge*, was struck down dead by a flash of Lightning, and continu'd seemingly so for near half an Hour; and tho' he recover'd his Life, he remain'd Speechless for several Days.

In the Isle of *Ely*, in a Town call'd *Winey*, a dreadful Clap of Thunder and flash of Lightning, almost consumed the House of one Mr. *Fincham*, a Barber, who was a great Swearer, and Blasphemer of the Name of God; where he, with his Wife and Child, were struck as dead; in which condition they lay for some Hours, tho' their Cloaths were not so much as sing'd; being a sad Judgment on him and his Family, for his Notorious Wickedness.

But the most dreadful and astonishing Providence, and amazing Judgment, was at *Ipswich* in *Suffolk*, about 7 a Clock on the 16th of *July* last, being *Friday*, near 3 hours after that at *London*; which happen'd thus, (*viz.*) One Mr. *James Wool- lar*, Master of a Wherry that usually goes with Goods and Passengers from *Ipswich* to *Harwich*, having 26 Passengers in the Vessel besides himself, in one of his said Wherries, coming from the latter of these places, just as he was come within the sight of *Ipswich*, a dreadful Clap of Thunder and flash of Lightning struck him dead, burning and scorching his Body in the dreadfulest manner that ever Eyes beheld; even to such a Degree, that his Skin and Flesh seem'd as if it had been broil'd on a Grid-Iron.

In the same Vessel, that very Instant, Mr. *Wells* and Mr. *Pur-*

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they were kill'd with the said Lightning dead on their Seats; tho' a Gentlewoman who sat between them, was miraculously preserv'd, having not the least sign of Damage either on her Body or Cloaths, to the extraordinary Amazement of those that saw it.

Another Person of *Harwich*, by Name *Anthony Clarke*, was miserably Scorch'd and Sing'd in the saddest manner that ever was known and died two days after in great Pain and Torment. The two Sons of Mr. *Eleny* was also unhappy Sufferers in this Calamity, being so dreadfully Burnt with the said lightning that they both Died within Nine Hours after this Accident happened.

The last Person that lost his Life in the said Wherry, was Mr. *Broughton* of *Sagmundham*, whose Neck and Throat was Burnt and Scorch'd with the Lightning to such a degree, that the Skin was drawn up like a piece of Burnt Shoe-leather; and which was more Wonderful, a large Campaign-periwig, which he then wore was not the least damnified, nor one Hair of it so much as sing'd. This Gentleman died at the *Three Mariners* in *Ipswich*, the same Evening the Lightning happen'd; so that 7 Persons unfortunately Perished in the Vessel, by the Violence of the said Thunder and Lightning, besides 8 or 9 others, who were so much scorch'd and damnified in their Bodies, that 'tis fear'd some of them will hardly Recover.

One Gentleman that was then in the said Wherry, had the Chain of his Watch inticely Melted, and run up into a Massy Lump of solid Mettle, as if it had been Melted in a Furnace; tho' God be praised, the Owner not in the least injured, no, not in any part of his Garments. And some of the Passengers found (to their great Amazenments) their Mony melted in their Pockets, both Silver and Brass, in the strangest manner that ever Mortal Eyes beheld; and yet no part of their Garments any way Damnified, or the least Sign of Fire seen upon them, only a Sulpherous Smell of Brimstone was observed, as well on those that were not Burnt, as those that were.

Another Vessel then in the same River, with Passengers in it, took notice during the greatest Clap of Thunder, that the Lightning darted down into the aforesaid Wherry like Beams from the Sun among them; and at the same time saw, as it were, Balls of Fire descend for some time from the Clouds, very near themselves, but did them no Harm. On

On the Sunday following, 4 of the said Deceased Person were Buried at St. Margaret's Church in Ipswich; one of whom was Mr. Woollar, Master of the said Wherry, whose Funeral-Sermon was then Preached by Mr. William Elemy, Minister of that Parish, by the Order and Appointment of his Sorrowful Widdow; the Substance of which is as followeth.

Psal. lxxvii. v. 17, 18.

The Clouds pour'd out Water, and the Skies sent out a Sound; Thine Arrows also went abroad; the voice of thy Thunder was in the Heavens; the Lightnings Lightened the World: The Earth trembled and shook.

I Have chosen this Text as a suitable Portion of Scripture for the sad Occasion before us; and no doubt the Kingly Prophet made use of these Words, to awaken the then wicked World out of their slumbering Security: Every Judgment is a new Lesson, and he that Learneth nothing by it, is not only a dull Scholar, but a dull Christian. God Almighty does not Punish always for the sake of his Justice, but sometimes for the sake of his Mercy, in order to Teach, Warn, and Instruct. He strikes some, that others may be spared, and spares others, that none may despair. *When God's Judgments are in the Earth, the Inhabitants will learn Righteousness, Isa. 26. 9.* God singled out the Galileans, whose Blood Pilate had mingled with his Sacrifices, and those on whom the Tower of Siloam fell, to tell the Jews, that, *except they did Repent, they should likewise Perish.* The only Method to run away from the thundering Judgments of Divine Vengeance, is to run away from our Sins. He has a thousand other Judgments in reserve if those we have seen inflicted on others doth not reach us: Not only Stormy Winds, Hail, Thunder and Lightning, are in his Treasury, but he can *Rain Snares, Fire, Brimstone, and horrible Tempests on the wicked.* God will never want ways to punish, if we can't find a way to Repent: All Creatures in the Earth, Sea, and Air, are his Servants: He has numerous Hosts and Armies, above and under Ground, to be the Instruments of his Justice: How suddenly, how dreadfully,
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how miserably can he punish, and even Consume any Mortal.
 ' The Clouds pour out Waters, the Skies send out a Soud,
 ' his Arrows also went abroad. The Voice of his Thunder
 ' was in the Heavens: The Lightning Lighten the World,
 ' and the Earth trembled and shook.

These are the Messengers of his Anger, the Expressers of his Displeasure, the Trumpets of his Fury, and as so many Calls to Repentance: But alas! who regards Thunder, Lightning, Hail, Tempests, Storms, or Hurricanes, &c.? Truly none, but those that see or feel the Stroke given. The Drunkard proceeds in his Cups, the Swearer in his Oaths, the Liar in his false Tales, the Whore-Monger in his Debauchery, and the whole World in their Iniquity; and none of these take any Warning, till the Lightning falls on their own Heads. Because they escape to Day, they think they may do so to Morrow: Because the Thief escapes Hanging for the first Fault, he commits a second, third, and fourth; and so on, till he Ruins both Body and Soul together.

But to come Home to the Person here before us, whose sudden Death may seem to startle a wavering Christian, because he was the first Person that felt the Fatal Judgment of Lightning in his own Vessel, and thereby censured by those that did not know him, to be more wicked than the rest. When alas! *God's ways are not as our ways.* There may be many Reasons for these things, which the All-Wise Providence thinks not proper for us frail Mortals to understand: The Sucking Infants of *Babylon* must Perish by the Sword, and their Brains Dash'd out: The little Innocent Children of *Sodom* and *Gomorah*, were Burnt with Fire from Heaven, as well as their Lustful Parents. He doth what he pleaseth, and we can say unto him, *What doth thou.* There is a Vail of Darkness drawn over many of his Works of Providence; but what we know not now, we shall know hereafter, *John 13.* Good *Joseph* died in Battel as well as Wicked *Ahab*; and Wicked *Nebuchadnezzar* had a prosperous Reign of Forty Years, as well as Righteous *David*. Think not, says, Christ, that they were greater Sinners than others, but rather take care that you do not Perish for want of Repentance.

Upon the Wicked God will *Rain Snares, Fire, and Brimstone, and a horrible Tempest: This shall be the Portion of their*

But this is not always so; for God sometimes suffers the wicked Man to prosper like a Green Bay-Tree, and chasteneth his Children here, in order to make them Glorious hereafter.

Neither did this Man sin, nor his Parents (says our Saviour) but that the Work of God might be made manifest in him; so we must not impute these Judgments to the Sins of our late Deceased Brethren, but that the Power of the Almighty may be more conspicuously known. If he suffered his only Beloved Son to Die for our Sins, why should we be startled when he suddenly calls for an Inferior Servant for the Good of the rest? Our Deceased Brother was a good Man, and therefore the more fitter for Divine Entertainment; and consequently ought (if we could but see with an eye of Faith) rather to Rejoice than Mourn; for if we have one Brother less, Heaven has one Saint more: He was taken away not for his, but our own Sins, like *Elias* in a Fiery-Chariot into Heaven: And we can but find his Mantle of Grace on Earth, and get a double Portion of his Good Spirit; the which if we do but improve to the Glory of God; and our own Spiritual Welfares, his Loss, tho' seemingly great to Flesh and Blood, will prove our Extraordinary Gain here, and Eternal Happiness hereafter. However, we ought to take Warning by the sudden Deaths of those Seven Persons, especially this our particuler Friend, and late Departed Brother; *For if the Righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the Ungodly and the Sinner appear?* 1. Pet. 4. 18. Therefore let us heartily Repent of all our Sins, and desire God to be Merciful to us, that our Lives, Bodies, and Estates, may be Comforts unto us, and Precious in his Sight, who is not only able to Burn our Bodies with the Thunder and Lightning of his Divine Wrath and Fury here, but Torment Body and Soul together in endless and more dreadful Fire; World without End. For if we will not turn from the Evil of our Ways, and the Violence that is in our Hands, he hath whet his Sword; bent his Bow, and made his Arrows ready; prepared his Instruments of Death call'd his Thund and Lightning

ning out of his Treasury, and will suddenly cast down his Bow of Displeasure upon us.

It is Dreadful to perish in a Temporal Disaster; as by War, Fire, Tempests, Thunder, Lightning, Earthquakes, and such-like sudden and amazing Calamities: But how much sadder is it, to think of Descending into the dismal Place of Unquenchable Torments, under the Everlasting Curse of God, to be Tortur'd by the Devil and his Angels, It is sad to hear of this, sad to foresee it, sad to consider it, and sad to think of it; but it will be much sadder to suffer and feel it. We are here all Alive to Day, (except the Persons that are made Examples for our Instructions, of which Number our Dear Friend before us is one) but we know not but by Morrow we may be made the like Examples to others, if we do not take Warning by their Misfortunes; for certainly, as is assur'd from the Word of God, which cannot Lye, That except we Repent, we must all likewise Perish; and that for ever. And since, as the Psalmist says, The Clouds have poured out Water, the Sky sent out a Sound, and the Arrows of the Lord been visible to us; and that the Voice of Thunder in the Heavens has been heard amongst us, and the Lightning been not only seen, but dreadfully felt; let us upon our Knees implore the Mercies of God, to keep us from those terrible Judgments which our Sins have deserved; and let us flee by a true Faith into the Arms of our Redeemer; and pour forth Floods of Repenting Tears, in order to assuage the Lightning and Thunder of Heaven's Displeasure against us. In doing which we may be Happy for ever. Which God of his Infinite Mercy Grant. Amen.

THE SECOND SERMON
 Preach'd at the Buriall of the late Sir John Mordaunt, Knight, on the 14th of May, 1679. By the Reverend Father in God, William Mordaunt, Minister of the Gospel at St. Dunstons Church in London.

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